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17 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lieutenant General Ralph J. Canine
Director, National Security Agency

SUBJECT: Language Training Materials

1. The Director has requested that I reply to your memorandum of 6 April 1953.

2. The production and acquisition of language training materials, particularly in the rare languages, has also been of concern to the members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC). As a result of this concern, as well as of informal discussions on this subject between our Office of Training and your people, a paper was prepared for IAC consideration (IAC-D-66 attached).

3. Simultaneously with the development of this paper the IAC was engaged in the preparation of a National Security Council Intelligence Directive on Foreign Language Publications (NSCID 16) to strengthen the collection, exploitation, and referencing of such publications. It was felt that the problem you raise and the IAC document in question might be best handled by the Advisory Committee which was established by NSCID 16 to advise the Director of Central Intelligence on implementation of that directive. The first meeting of this Committee was held on 13 April and at that time it was agreed that at the next meeting the agencies would be prepared to indicate their priorities in the Appendix to IAC-D-66 and to report on the feasibility of an inventory within their own agencies regarding available foreign language reference materials. Although not yet decided, presumably additional steps would then be to conduct an inventory and thereupon assess areas in which effort should be directed in the preparation of lexical materials by whatever appropriate means.

4. It does not appear necessary or wise to have two groups composed of the same agencies working on this problem. We propose, therefore, that in lieu of the 20 April meeting you send representatives to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Language Publications which will be in Room 1128 M Building at 2:30 P.M. on 27 April. At that time we can work out how best to proceed.

JAMES Q. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

cc: [redacted]

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